

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A stabilized solid or liquid enzyme formulation comprising at least one phosphatase and at least one stabilizing agent selected from the group consisting of agar, algin, carrageenan, furcelleran, ghatti gum, tragacanth gum, gum karya, guaran, locust bean gum (= carob bean gum), tamarind seed gum, arabinogalactan, xanthan (gum), at least one animal protein and mixtures thereof, with the proviso that if gelatine is used in granules as solid formulations as the only stabilizing agent, the granules are subsequently coated.
2. (Previously presented) The enzyme formulation according to claim 1, wherein the phosphatase is a phytase.
3. (Previously presented) The enzyme formulation according to claim 2, wherein the phytase is a plant phytase, a fungal phytase, a bacterial phytase, a phytase producible by a yeast or a consensus phytase.
4. (Previously presented) The enzyme formulation according to claim 1, wherein the animal protein is selected from the group consisting of proteins from poultry, beef, pig, fish and mixtures thereof.
5. (Previously presented) The enzyme formulation according to claim 1, wherein the animal protein is selected from the group consisting of gelatine, casein, albumin and mixtures thereof.
6. (Previously presented) The enzyme formulation according to claim 1, characterized in that the formulation is liquid.
7. (Previously presented) The enzyme formulation according to claim 1, characterized in that the formulation is solid.
8. (Previously presented) The enzyme formulation according to claim 7, characterized in that the solid formulation is in the form of granule(s).

9. (Previously presented) The enzyme formulation according to claim 8, wherein the granule(s) comprise at least one phosphatase, a solid carrier which comprises at least 15% (w/w) of an edible carbohydrate polymer, and at least one stabilizing agent, wherein the stabilizing agent is selected from the group consisting of agar, algin, carrageenan, furcelleran, ghatti gum, tragacanth gum, gum karya, guaran, locust bean gum (= carob bean gum), tamarind seed gum, arabinogalactan, xanthan (gum), at least one animal protein and mixtures thereof, with the proviso that if gelatine is used as the only stabilizing agent, the granules are subsequently coated.

10. (Previously presented) The enzyme formulation according to claim 9, wherein the granule(s) is coated.

11. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of phosphatase-containing granule(s), wherein the process comprises processing

(i) at least one phosphatase,

(ii) a solid carrier which comprises at least 15% (w/w) of an edible carbohydrate polymer, and

(iii) at least one stabilizing agent, wherein the stabilizing agent is selected from the group consisting of agar, algin, carrageenan, furcelleran, ghatti gum, tragacanth gum, gum karya, guaran, locust bean gum (= carob bean gum), tamarind seed gum, arabinogalactan, xanthan (gum), at least one animal protein and mixtures thereof, with the proviso that if gelatine is used as the only stabilizing agent, the granules are subsequently coated.

12. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 11 wherein water is added to the processing.

13. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 12, wherein the water and the phosphatase are provided as enzyme-containing aqueous liquid(s).

14. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 13, wherein the liquid is a filtrate derived from a fermentation process resulting in production of the phosphatase.

15. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 11, wherein the granules are dried subsequent to the processing.

16. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 11, wherein the animal protein is selected from the group consisting of proteins from poultry, beef, pig, fish and mixtures thereof.

17. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 11, wherein the animal protein is selected from the group consisting of gelatine, casein, albumin and mixtures thereof.

18. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 11, wherein the process comprises:

- a) mixing an aqueous liquid containing the enzyme with the solid carrier and the stabilizing agent;
- b) mechanically processing the mixture obtained in a) to obtain enzyme-containing granules; and
- c) drying the enzyme-containing granules obtained in b).

19. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 11, wherein the processing is mechanical which comprises extrusion, pelleting, high-shear granulation, expansion, fluid bed agglomeration, spheronisation, drum granulation or a combination thereof.

20. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~14~~ 13, wherein the enzyme-containing aqueous liquid, the solid carrier and the stabilizing agent are mixed and the resulting mixture is kneaded before granulation.

21. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~19~~ 11, wherein the processing is extrusion performed at low pressure in a basket- or dome- extruder.

22. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 11, wherein the granule(s) is spheronised.

23. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 11, wherein the granule(s) is coated.
24. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 11, wherein the phosphatase is a phytase.
25. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 24, wherein the granule(s) has phytase activity ranging from 1,000 to 80,000 FTU/g.
26. (Currently amended) Enzyme-containing granule(s) ~~obtainable~~ obtained by a ~~the~~ process as defined in claim 11.
- 27-33. (Cancelled)
34. (New) The process according to claim 24, wherein the phytase is one selected from the group consisting of a plant phytase, a fungal phytase, a bacterial phytase, a phytase producible by a yeast and a consensus phytase.
35. (New) A process for the preparation of an animal feed or a composition suitable for human nutrition, or a premix or precursor to an animal feed or a composition suitable for human nutrition, the process comprises mixing at least one stabilized formulation according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of a solid, liquid, and solid and liquid formulation with one or more animal feed or food substance(s) or ingredient(s).
36. (New) The process according to claim 35 wherein the mixture of feed or food substance(s) and the stabilized formulation is sterilised or treated with steam, pelletised and optionally dried.
37. (New) A process of feeding a human comprising feeding at least one stabilized formulation according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of a solid, liquid, and solid and liquid formulation to a human.

38. (New) A process of feeding an animal comprising feeding at least one stabilized formulation according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of a solid, liquid, and solid and liquid formulation to an animal.
39. (New) A process for promoting the growth of an animal, comprising feeding an animal with a diet that comprises at least one stabilized formulation according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of a solid, liquid, and solid and liquid formulation.
40. (New) A process for improving the feed conversion rate, comprising feeding an animal with a diet that comprises at least one stabilized formulation according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of a solid, liquid, and solid and liquid formulation.
41. (New) A process for the preparation of an animal feed or a composition suitable for human nutrition, or a premix or precursor to an animal feed or a composition suitable for human nutrition, the process comprising mixing the enzyme-containing granule(s) according to claim 26 with one or more animal feed or food substance(s) or ingredient(s).
42. (New) The process according to claim 41 wherein the mixture of feed or food substance(s) and the enzyme-containing granules is sterilised or treated with steam, pelletised and optionally dried.
43. (New) A process of feeding a human comprising feeding the enzyme-containing granule(s) according to claim 26 to a human.
44. (New) A process of feeding an animal comprising feeding the enzyme-containing granule(s) according to claim 26 to an animal.
45. (New) A process for promoting the growth of an animal, comprising feeding an animal with a diet that comprises the enzyme-containing granule(s) according to claim 26.
46. (New) A process for improving the feed conversion rate, comprising feeding an animal with a diet that comprises the enzyme-containing granule(s) according to claim 26.